

Applicant Name Thompson Falls, City of
Project Name Thompson Falls Water System Improvements

Project Abstract

The city proposes to replace leaky, undersized water mains in two residential areas of Thompson Falls. Existing 1.50 to four-inch steel mains will be replaced with six-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) mains.

The project includes:

- Installation of new service lines to the property line and installation of water meter pits for 35 users in the area of the improvements;
- Reconfiguring system pressure zoning to switch a residential area to the upper pressure zone to eliminate low pressure problems; and
- Liquid chlorine storage improvements to comply with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) operation and maintenance (O&M) inspection recommendations.

The improvements will reduce water losses, eliminate low pressure problems, improve system looping to significantly increase fire protection, and provide fire protection to unprotected areas.

The proposed project results in resource conservation, resource management, and citizen benefits:

- Resource conservation benefits through improved efficiency and utilization practices by replacing leaky water mains and installing water meter pits at the property line;
- Resource management benefits through updated metering; and
- Citizens benefits through eliminating low pressure problems (which eliminates backflow/water system contamination potential), by providing fire protection capabilities where fire protection does not exist, and by providing significant improvement in fire protection in residential areas.

The city has made a concerted effort to update service lines and meters. When water main improvements are completed, service lines are replaced from the water main to the property line, at which point meter pits are installed. These improvements assure the water distribution and service lines are water tight to the point of metering. This policy was adopted to assure that water that may be lost in private service lines is metered before loss and to provide incentive to users to repair leaking service lines.